

UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT  
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

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In the Matter

of

Index No.

08-01789

THE SIPA LINK,

Debtor.

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April 14, 2009

United States Custom House

One Bowling Green

New York, New York 10004

Trustee's motion for an order authorizing  
the sale of the Debtor's New York Mets Tickets, Free and  
Clear of Liens, Claims and Encumbrances (on Shortened  
Notice)

B E F O R E:

HON. BURTON R. LIFLAND,

U.S. Bankruptcy Judge

A P P E A R A N C E S:

BAKER HOSTETLER, LLP

Attorneys for Trustee Irving H.

Picard and Counsel for the

Trustee

45 Rockefeller Plaza

New York, New York 10017

BY: MARC E. HIRSCHFIELD, ESQ.

-and-

AMY E. VANDERWAL, ESQ.

1 PROCEEDINGS

2 THE COURT: The Sipa Link.

3 MR. HIRSCHFIELD: Good morning Your Honor.

4 THE COURT: Good morning.

5 MR. HIRSCHFIELD: Your Honor, Marc  
6 Hirschfield, from the law firm of Baker Hostetler on behalf  
7 of the Trustee.

8 We have one motion on the calendar this  
9 morning. It is the motion to seek authority to sell the  
10 Debtor's New York Mets tickets.

11 My colleague, Ms. Vanderwal, will address  
12 the Court.

13 MS. VANDERWAL: Good morning, Your Honor.

14 We are here as my colleague mentioned  
15 seeking two things. First.

16 Is the trustee's motion for an order  
17 authorizing the sale of the Debtor's New York Mets tickets  
18 free and clear of liens, claims and encumbrances to the  
19 highest bidder at the conclusion of that process.

20 As part of the Trustee's practice to  
21 identify the assets, the Trustee has determined that the  
22 Debtor owns two platinum seats two rows behind home plate,  
23 and that the value is approximately \$80,000.

24 In considering how to maximize the value of  
25 those tickets, the trustee has been engaged in discussions

1 with several ticket brokers who have told the Trustee that  
2 they are not interested, and who have indicated that it  
3 would be difficult to sell the tickets given the high end  
4 prices.

5 As a result, now they have entered into  
6 discussions with the New York Mets, and the New York Mets  
7 have expressed their willingness to allow the Trustee to  
8 exchange the platinum seats for gold seats, and to provide  
9 a full refund of the full amount of the difference between  
10 the platinum and gold tickets.

11 The Mets have also agreed to allow the  
12 purchaser of the gold tickets to retain any and all rights  
13 as the account holder. So that they will be able to  
14 purchase the post-season tickets playoff tickets with  
15 renewal rights for the subsequent seasons. The gold  
16 tickets are just a few rows from the platinum, and in these  
17 difficult market conditions the Trustee feels they will be  
18 easier to sell.

19 The Trustee believes that this exchange is  
20 beneficial for the Trustee for several reasons.

21 First, the Trustee can capture the  
22 increased value from the inclusion of the season ticket  
23 holder rights and renewal opportunities.

24 Second, the Mets have agreed to refund to  
25 the Trustee the full amount of the difference between the

1 gold and the platinum tickets.

2 THE COURT: Suppose the Trustee were to  
3 wait a couple of months to see if the Mets do well since it  
4 has not started that way?

5 MS. VANDERWAL: It unfortunately didn't,  
6 and it may be best to sell them as quickly as possible.  
7 As for the proposed sale process, we are sorry that the  
8 market for them is at the bottom right now, given the poor  
9 economic showing at the start of this season.

10 THE COURT: So if you wait a little bit, it  
11 might be speculative to expect that they have no place to  
12 go but up.

13 MS. VANDERWAL: But it may also be, not to  
14 be a pessimist, but it may also get worse.

15 As for the proposed sale process, the  
16 Trustee is seeking the Court's approval to sell the tickets  
17 on an online auction on E-Bay, and the Trustee proposes  
18 that the auction would also be before seven days. And if  
19 the Court were to enter the order, the auction could begin  
20 either today or tomorrow, and we would be able to sell the  
21 tickets to the highest bidder at the conclusion of the  
22 auction process.

23 As the Court may be aware, the Trustee had  
24 good success on the opening day tickets on E-Bay. It had a  
25 ticket price of approximately \$1,000 and they sold for

1 \$7,500.

2 Now, if the Court were to approve the sale,  
3 the Mets will be able to start the online bidding at 50  
4 percent of the face value of the tickets, that would be  
5 combined with the ticket exchange for the opening day on  
6 E-Bay. The Trustee has already sold the opening day, and  
7 the Trustee believes that this will provide the highest  
8 returns on the tickets.

9 The combination of the Mets exchange offer,  
10 and its opening bid guarantees that the Trustee will have a  
11 minimum return of 62 percent of the face value of the  
12 tickets.

13 As I've already mentioned, the Trustee is  
14 also asking for Your Honor to approve the order, so that it  
15 will go to the highest bidder at the conclusion of the  
16 auction.

17 Given the fact that the season has already  
18 started, the tickets need to be sold as quickly as possible  
19 to allow the Trustee to maximize its value.

20 In conclusion, we submit there is a sound  
21 business justification for the sale of the Mets tickets and  
22 that the auction process will allow the tickets to be sold  
23 for a fair and reasonable price.

24 There have been no objections filed, Your  
25 Honor. So that we would now ask for an order approving

1 the sale process and authorizing the sale to the highest  
2 bidders.

3 THE COURT: Does anyone else want to be  
4 heard?

5 Hearing no reply, the process order is  
6 approved.

7 MS. VANDERWAL: May I approach, Your  
8 Honor.

9 THE COURT: Yes, I will entertain the  
10 order.

11 (Brief recess.)

12 THE COURT: All right. I have approved the  
13 order.

14 MS. VANDERWAL: Thank you, Your Honor.

15 MR. HIRSCHFIELD: Thank you, Your Honor.

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C E R T I F I C A T E

STATE OF NEW YORK            }  
  }       ss.:  
COUNTY OF NEW YORK        }

I, MINDY CORCORAN, a Shorthand Reporter  
and Notary Public within and for the State of New York, do  
hereby certify:

That I reported the proceedings in the  
within entitled matter, and that the within transcript is a  
true record of such proceedings.

I further certify that I am not related, by  
blood or marriage, to any of the parties in this matter and  
that I am in no way interested in the outcome of this  
matter.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my  
hand this 14th day of April, 2009.

\_\_\_\_\_  
MINDY CORCORAN